

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
TYLER DIVISION**

Raegan Swann,

Plaintiff,

V.

Harris &amp; Harris, Ltd.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 6:20-cv-64

# COMPLAINT

## JURY

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Raegan Swann, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

## JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of the Defendant’s repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (“FDCPA”), and the invasions of the Plaintiff’s personal privacy by the Defendant in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

## PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Raegan Swann (“Plaintiff”), is an adult individual residing in Winnsboro, Texas, and is a “consumer” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. Defendant Harris & Harris, Ltd. (“Harris”), is an Illinois business entity with an address of 111 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60604, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

**ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

**A. The Debt**

6. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to an original creditor (the “Creditor”).

7. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

8. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Harris for collection, or Harris was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

9. The Defendant attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

**B. Harris Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics**

10. Within the last year, Harris began calling Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

11. On September 26, 2019, Plaintiff informed Harris that she could not receive personal calls at work and asked Harris to stop calling her at work.

12. Thereafter, Harris continued calling Plaintiff’s at her place of employment in an attempt to collect the Debt.

13. Moreover, Harris called Plaintiff’s job and left voice messages disclosing the nature of the call. Plaintiff’s two co-workers heard Harris’s messages.

14. As a result of Harris’s actions, Plaintiff incurred a great deal of embarrassment and distress.

**C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages**

15. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendant's unlawful conduct.

16. As a direct consequence of the Defendant's acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

**COUNT I**

**VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.**

17. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

18. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.

19. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendant contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.

20. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendant communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.

21. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendant engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

22. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendant caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

23. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendant used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.

24. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendant employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

25. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendant used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.

26. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

27. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

## **COUNT II**

### **VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DEBT COLLECTION ACT** **TEX. FIN. CODE ANN. § 392, et al.**

28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

29. The Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(1).

30. The Defendant are each a "debt collector" and a "third party debt collector" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(6) and (7).

31. The Defendant caused a telephone to ring repeatedly, with the intent to annoy or abuse the Plaintiff, in violation of Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.302(4).

32. The Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief and actual damages pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(1) and (2) and to remedies under Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code § 17.62 pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.404(a).

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the

Defendant:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendant;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendant;
3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) against the Defendant;
4. Injunctive relief pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(1);
5. Actual damages pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(2);
6. Remedies under Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code § 17.62 pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.404(a);
7. Actual damages from the Defendant for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
8. Punitive damages; and
9. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS**

Dated: February 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

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